GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4615
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
RURAL ECONOMY
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any new schemes on the anvil to develop rural economy in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to introduce new schemes for the development of rural industries and cottage industries in the country with financial assistance from UNDP, IMF, World Bank and other international funding agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the progress of such projects, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) to (e) : An agreement has been signed with the World Bank for a Credit of US $ 111 million IDA Credit for Andhra Pradesh under Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project on 12.5.2000. The main objective of the Project is to
(i) help create self-managed grass-roots institutions;
(ii) build the capacity of established local institutions, especially the Gram Sabha / Panchayats and line departments of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, to operate in a more inclusive manner in addressing the needs of the poor;
(iii) support investment in sub-projects proposed by grass-roots institutions of the poor to accelerate their entry and expand their involvement in social and economic activities; and
(iv) improve access to education for girls to reduce the incidence of child labour among the poor.

Another agreement has also been signed with the World Bank for an IDA Credit of US $ 100.5 million for Rajasthan under Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project on 19.5.2000.

The project is part of a series of new lending operations of the World Bank in India that seeks to improve opportunities for the rural poor to meet priority social and economic needs through community driven participatory approaches and demand based investment decisions. Specifically, the project will mobilize and empower the poor and help them to develop strong grass roots organizations that enable them to participate in democratic and development process.

Under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), US $ 89.9 million is to be utilised for various development programmes, both rural & urban, over the period 1997-2000. Programme interventions will directly and indirectly support rural and cottage industries sector via capacity building, micro finance, information dissemination etc.